



## **Sheila Dixon**

*Mayor,  
Baltimore*

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Mayor Dixon Makes Appointments to Agencies with Direct Impact on Neighborhoods and Economic Development**

Baltimore, MD - Staying with her commitment to create a more cohesive government and show the connectivity that those agencies should have, Mayor Sheila Dixon announced the appointments of the directors of the Department of Planning and the Office of Neighborhoods, respectively.

Douglas McCoach was selected as Mayor Dixon's choice for the City's next planning director, succeeding Otis Rolley III, who is now chief of staff for the Mayor. Tony Bridges, formerly deputy director of the Office of Neighborhoods, was appointed director of the newly formed Office of Neighborhoods and Constituent Services.

"As a former partner with RTKL, Doug brings to the Planning Department some of the very best national and international experience in the architectural design and engineering world," stated Mayor Dixon. "He has already had a direct impact on his hometown of Baltimore through his teaching at Morgan State University's and the University of Maryland's schools of architecture. As planning director, I'm sure the City will continue to benefit from his experience, affiliations, enthusiasm and his love for Baltimore."

Over a span of 23 years in private practice, Douglas McCoach has worked on an impressively diverse and long list of projects. Most notable and recent is his management as Principal in charge of the Mount Royal Gateway for the Maryland Institute College of Art project, which is currently under construction. Other projects in or near Baltimore that McCoach has worked on include a Morgan State University feasibility study for a School of Hospitality and Management and Campus Inn, a repair and alteration of 1.3 million square feet office and support spaces at the Social Security Administration Metro West Complex, T. Rowe Price Financial Center – phase II buildings 3 and 4 in Owings Mills, MD and USF&G Mount Washington Campus, data processing facility.

In addition to McCoach's work experience, he serves (or has served) as Vice Chairman of the Baltimore City Planning Commission, Downtown Partnership board member, Baltimore City Commission for Historic and Architectural Preservation task force member, and Vice President of the Board of Directors, Maryland Citizens Planning Association.

Showcasing the connection Mayor Dixon envisions between the Department of Planning and the Office of Neighborhoods, and the importance of their collective abilities to engage and keep communities involved in the development of their communities, Mayor Dixon also announced that Tony Bridges would be the new Director of the Office of Neighborhoods and Constituent Services.

“Community associations in West and Northwest Baltimore have shown tremendous growth and progress under the advice and guidance of Tony Bridges,” stated Mayor Dixon. “Due to his integrity and intelligence, Tony has been able to strengthen the partnerships between City Hall and community associations. Of course, stronger communities mean a stronger City. I’m expecting Tony to have the same impact City-wide.”

During Tony Bridges tenure as deputy director of the Office of Neighborhoods, he reenergized the office with the right blend of compassion and optimism that was necessary for the hard work that is required to work with some of Baltimore’s more depressed communities. Tony uses his youth and enthusiasm as a motivating tool to get other “would-be” community activists and organizers to take action. Bridges has also worked diligently with his Office of Neighborhoods colleagues to develop more relevant strategic planning and organizational management training to those associations most in need. Bridges believes taking these more business-like concepts City wide will show significant results over the long term.

As part of Mayor Dixon’s realignment of the Office of the Mayor to better reflect her vision for the City and to facilitate a more efficient and effective government, the Office of Neighborhoods and Office of Constituent Services have been merged. Replacing Tony Bridges as the deputy director of the Office of Neighborhoods is Angela Fraser. Fraser brought eight years as a community coordinator with the Baltimore City State’s Attorneys Office to her work in community outreach with then City Council President Sheila Dixon’s Office. Serving as Mr. Bridges deputy director in the Office of Constituent Services is Laurretta Brown. Laurretta has worked in city government for over 40 years. According to Mayor Dixon, Ms. Brown embodies the ideal employee for her administration – professional, hard-working, solutions-focused and committed to public service.

As part of Mayor Dixon’s initiatives to keep Baltimore moving forward, she also announced that she was able to retain Karen Sitnick as director of the Mayor’s Office of Employment Development, where she has been a leader and advocate for over twenty years. Karen’s summer youth employment programs for the City of Baltimore have become models for cities around the nation.

“Baltimore’s hard-working, working class citizens have benefited greatly over the past two decades from Karen’s efforts to make OED a customer and user-friendly agency. Karen’s determination and ingenuity results in outcomes and program developments that are the envy of any metropolitan area,” stated Mayor Dixon.

Mayor Dixon’s announcements reflect a commitment to Baltimore’s neighborhoods and communities – from the conceptual phases of planning to the assessment phases of community organization and reorganization. Her passion for neighborhoods combined with her commitment to providing economic opportunities for Baltimore’s working citizens will serve as the one of the building blocks of her Administration.

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